

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/DE2004/050225 filed February 27, 2004. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

--The invention relates to a lens holder for a device for inserting deformable intraocular lenses, by means of which an intraocular lens is transferred from a relaxed state into an elastically deformed state so that it can be injected into an eye, where it then assumes its relaxed state again, and the lens holder contains a flexible backing support with two oppositely lying peripheral regions, which flexible backing support can be deformed fro an open position, in which it is designed to accommodate an intraocular lens in its relaxed state, into a closed position, in which it forms a passage for accommodating the deformed intraocular lens, and the lens holder is designed to be inserted in the device when in the closed position.--

Page 1, please insert the following paragraph after the second full paragraph:

--Patent application FR2820633A1 discloses a device whereby the lens to be deformed lies on a flexible part and is deformed in conjunction with it. Using this device, a lens can be deformed to a maximum far enough for the oppositely lying edges of the lens to abut against one another, so that the lens then essentially assumes the shape of a letter C.--

Page 1, penultimate line, to page 2, line 2, please amend this paragraph as follows:

--Against the background of this prior art, the underlying objective of the invention is to propose a lens holder of the type outlined above, which enables the intraocular lens to be easily inserted and which enables a uniform deformation of the intraocular lens without causing excessive local stress whereby a deformed intraocular lens is rolled as it is pushed into the lens holder so that its oppositely lying edges overlap.--

Page 2, cancel the paragraph on lines 3-13:

~~--In order to achieve these objectives, the lens holder contains a flexible backing support which can be deformed from an open position, in which it is designed to accommodate an intraocular lens in its relaxed state, into a closed position in which it is designed to be inserted in the device. The expression "flexible" backing support is intended to mean a region which can be elastically, partially plastically or plastically deformed without breaking. As a result of this solution, the intraocular lens is supported during the deformation process so that it can not flex or shift. Furthermore, the intraocular lens is deformed~~

~~across its entire extension and not just about one or two bending axes as is the case with the prior art. This reliably prevents the intraocular lens from being subjected to excessive local stress.~~

After line 13, add the following two new paragraphs:

--This objective is achieved by the invention due to the fact that the transitions from the flexible backing support to the peripheral regions in the passage formed in the closed position are designed so that the passage has a snail-shaped cross-section at one of its ends.

This design of the lens holder reliably prevents the oppositely lying edges of the lens abutting with one another during the displacement in the lens holder, thereby preventing a further reduction in the dimension of the deformed lens.--

Page 2, delete the last paragraph:

~~--In one embodiment of the invention, the flexible backing support forms a passage for accommodating the deformed intraocular lens in the closed position. Said cannula, into which the deformed intraocular lens can be pushed by means of a push rod for example, can be connected to this passage.--~~

Page 3, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

~~In another embodiment, the flexible backing support has two oppositely lying, reinforced peripheral regions. These peripheral regions may fulfil several functions, as will become apparent later on. For example, at the transition from the flexible backing support to the respective peripheral region on either side, an undercut is provided as a means of retaining and guiding~~

~~the edges of the intraocular lens. These peripheral regions enable the intraocular lens to be accurately positioned in the lens holder and also prevent the intraocular lens from slipping as it is deformed. At least one of the undercut peripheral regions advantageously has a recess so that the edge of the intraocular lens is able to move past the peripheral region of the lens holder unhindered as it is inserted. an undercut is provided at either side at the transition from the flexible backing support to the respective peripheral region as a means of retaining and guiding the edges of the intraocular lens. These peripheral regions enable the intraocular lens to be accurately positioned in the lens holder and also prevent the intraocular lens from slipping during deformation. At least one of the undercut regions advantageously has a recess so that when the intraocular lens is inserted, its edge is able to pass the peripheral region of the lens holder unhindered.--~~

Page 4, lines 5-10, cancel this paragraph in its entirety.

~~--In another embodiment of the invention, the transitions from the flexible backing support to the peripheral regions of the passage formed in the closed position are such that the passage has a snail-type cross-section at one of its ends. With a passage of this shape, large intraocular lenses in particular can be rolled so that their oppositely lying edges overlap as they are pushed through the passage.--~~